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Charles W. Stewar

Date:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1725

Examiner: Len Tran

In re application of

JAMES A. WAMBAUGH

Serial No. 09/754,793

Filed January 4, 2001

METHOD TO EQUALIZE HEAT DISTRIBUTION IN REACTOR TUBE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

## <u>AMENDMENT</u>

This amendment is in response to the non-final office action mailed January 26, 2004.

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## V. New claims 6 - 23

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 6-23 are patentably distinct over the references cited by the Examiner. For instance, the references do not teach the use of a monolith for the direction of heat flow through a reactor tube in order to equalize a temperature profile across the reactor tube. There are also many other significant distinctions.

## VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of claims 1, 5, and 6-23.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. WAMBAUGH

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